

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. When strikethrough cannot easily be perceived, or when five or fewer characters are deleted, [[double brackets]] are used to show the deletion. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered). Please AMEND claims 1-3, 13, 15, and 16 in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An applet latest version automatically setting system, comprising:

a central office server of a banking institution having an applet storage unit storing an applet of a latest version and having a single-program structure, and a version number storage unit storing a version number of the applet stored in the applet storage unit; and

a branch office terminal unit of the banking institution having a version number information storage unit performing a process based on the applet read from said server, and storing a local version number of the applet, a comparison unit reading the version number of the applet of the latest version from the version number storage unit of the central office server when a predetermined event occurs, and comparing the read version number with the local version number stored in the version number information storage unit, and an update unit reading the applet of the latest version from the applet storage unit of the central office server and updating ~~the an applet at the branch office terminal unit~~ when the comparison unit outputs a non-matching result,

wherein the predetermined event includes at least one of an initialization of the applet or a detection of a user event causing performance of an online process during execution after the applet is initialized, and

wherein the applet at the branch office terminal unit is deleted and the applet of the latest version is retrieved when the applet at the branch office terminal unit is terminated.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A central office server of a banking institution, comprising: an applet storage unit updating and persistently storing an applet of a latest version, the applet having a single-program structure; and

a version number storage unit storing a version number of the applet stored in said applet storage unit,

wherein the version number is read from said version number storage unit at a version

number information read request, and is transmitted to a branch office terminal unit,
wherein the version number information read request is caused by at least one of an
initialization of the applet or a detection of a user event causing performance of an online
process during execution after the applet is initialized, and
wherein the applet at the branch office terminal unit is deleted and the applet of the latest
version is retrieved when the applet at the branch office terminal unit is terminated.

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A branch office terminal unit of a banking institution, comprising:

a version number information storage unit performing a process based on an applet having a single-program structure read from a central office server of a banking institution, and storing a local version number about the applet;

a comparison unit reading the version number of the applet of the latest version from the central office server when a predetermined event occurs, and comparing the read version number with the version number stored in said version number information storage unit; and

an update unit reading the applet of the latest version from said applet storage unit and updating the applet at the branch office terminal unit when the comparison unit outputs a non-matching result,

wherein the predetermined event includes at least one of an initialization of the applet or a detection of a user event causing performance of an online process during execution after the applet is initialized, and

wherein the applet at the branch office terminal unit is deleted and the applet of the latest version is retrieved when the applet at the branch office terminal unit is terminated.

4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system according to claim 1, wherein said applet is a processor-independent byte-code applet.

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The server according to claim 2, wherein said applet is a processor-independent byte-code applet.

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The terminal unit according to claim 3, wherein said applet is a processor-independent byte-code applet.

7. (ORIGINAL) The system according to claim 4, wherein said predetermined event

occurs when the applet becomes active.

8. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The terminal unit according to claim 6, wherein said predetermined event occurs when the applet becomes active.

9. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system according to claim 1, wherein distributed object computing infrastructure communications are established between said central office server and said branch office terminal unit.

10. (CANCELED)

11. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system according to claim 1, wherein said version number storage unit is a main memory or a disk unit.

12. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The terminal unit according to claim 3, wherein said version number information storage unit is a main memory or a disk unit.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An applet latest version automatically setting method, comprising:

storing an applet of a latest version and having a single-program structure in an applet storage unit of a central office server;

storing a version number of the applet in a version number storage unit of the central office server;

storing the version number read from said version number storage unit in a version number information storage unit of a branch office terminal unit of the banking institution as a local version number;

reading the version number of the applet of the latest version from the version number storage unit of the central office server when a predetermined event occurs, and comparing the read version number with the local version number stored in the version number information storage unit; and

reading the applet of the latest version from the applet storage unit of the central office server when the comparison produces a non-matching result, and updating the applet on the terminal unit,

wherein the predetermined event includes at least one of an initialization of the applet or

a detection of a user event causing performance of an online process during execution after the applet is initialized, and

wherein the applet at the branch office terminal unit is deleted and the applet of the latest version is retrieved when the applet at the branch office terminal unit is terminated.

14. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 13, wherein said applet is a processor-independent byte-code applet.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-readable storage medium storing a program used to direct a computer to perform:

storing an applet of a latest version and having a single-program structure in an applet storage unit of a central office server of a banking institution;

storing a version number of the applet in a version number storage unit of the central office server;

storing the version number read from said version number storage unit in a version number information storage unit of a branch office terminal unit of the banking institution as a local version number;

reading the version number of the applet of the latest version from the version number storage unit of the central office server when a predetermined event occurs, and comparing the read version number with the local version number stored in the version number information storage unit; and

reading the applet of the latest version from the applet storage unit of the central office server when the comparison produces a non-matching result, and updating the applet on the terminal unit,

wherein the predetermined event includes an initialization of the applet and a detection of a user event causing performance of an online process during execution after the applet is initialized, and

wherein the applet at the branch office terminal unit is deleted and the applet of the latest version is retrieved when the applet at the branch office terminal unit is terminated.

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An applet latest version automatically setting system, comprising:

an applet having a single-program structure and which performs version management independently of other applets;

a central office server of a banking institution storing a latest version of the applet and a version number of the applet;

a branch office terminal unit of the banking institution storing a local version number of the applet and having a comparison unit which reads the version number of the applet on the central office server when a specified event occurs and which compares the read version number with the local version number, the branch office terminal further having an update unit which reads the latest version of the applet from the central office server and updates the applet at the terminal unit when the comparison unit outputs a non-matching result, the terminal unit not storing in advance information of versions of a plurality of applets,

wherein the specified event includes at least one of an initialization of the applet or a detection of a user event causing performance of an online process during execution after the applet is initialized, and

wherein the applet at the branch office terminal unit is deleted and the applet of the latest version is retrieved when the applet at the branch office terminal unit is terminated.

17. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The terminal unit according to claim 6, wherein said version number information storage unit is a main memory or a disk unit.